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July 27, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Alva E. Smith
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 4766
Joint Response


Dear Ms. Smith:

Bopp, Coleson and Bostrom has been retained to represent Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Lorillard Tobacco Company, Philip Morris Incorporated, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and United States Tobacco Company (USTC) in MUR 4766. Since being retained, we have determined that the issues are substantially identical for all five corporations and anticipate filing a joint response. We believe that a joint response will be the most efficient means for the Commission to decide this Matter Under Review. Accordingly, as we discussed on the telephone on July 24, 1998, we respectfully request that the Commission grant until August 20, 1998, to file a joint response on behalf of all five corporations.

Each of the five corporations have individually requested and received extensions for the initial response. United States Tobacco Company received a 20 day extension and its response is the last one due on August 20, 1998. Therefore, we request that the Commission allow the joint response to be filed on the date that the Commission has already approved for USTC. R. J. Reynolds' and Lorillard's responses are presently due on August 5, 1998, and Philip Morris' and Brown & Williamson's are due on August 6, 1998. Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOPP, COLESON & BOSTROM



James R. Mason, III

cc: list